BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-07 February 15th, 2013

- **Sales by B.C. manufactures fell 3.3% in December**
- **Housing starts rose 7.5% in January**
- **The number of contributors to Registered Retirement Savings Plans dipped 1.3% in 2011**

The Economy

- **Sales of goods manufactured in the province dropped 3.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in December, following two months of mild growth.** Sales by manufacturers of durable goods fell 2.4%, as producers of wood (-2.5%), non-metallic mineral (-7.3%), and fabricated metal (-6.3%) products saw sales contract.

  Sales by manufacturers of non-durable goods declined 4.3%. Sales of food (-3.1%), paper (-2.8%), and clothing (-13.0%) all contracted following gains in the previous month, while chemical (-3.6%) sales dropped for the second month in a row.

  Canadian manufacturing shipments fell 3.1% in December, with six provinces recording contractions. Sales in Saskatchewan (+2.0%), PEI (+1.7%), Quebec (+0.7%), and Nova Scotia (+0.7%) were offset by declines in Manitoba (-7.5%), New Brunswick (-6.7%), Ontario (-4.6%), Alberta (-4.5%), B.C. (-3.3%) and Newfoundland (-0.2%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Total sales of manufactured goods in B.C. rose 1.2% in 2012, below the national average of 3.4%.** Strong sales of durable goods (+4.7%) were behind the increase, with sales of wood products rising 5.0%. Non-durable goods dipped 2.4%, largely due to decreases in food (-0.1%) and paper (-11.6%) sales.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia edged up 1.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in December, following two months of decline.** Consumer purchases of cars (+6.0%), from North America (+7.7%) and overseas (+3.8%) were responsible for the increase. The number of trucks sold dropped 2.5%, as consumers purchased fewer North American models (-3.4%) but more trucks from overseas (+1.3%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Housing

- **Building permits in British Columbia were 16.2% higher in 2012 than they were in 2011, with increases in five of the eight development regions.** Planned spending on construction projects was down moderately in Vancouver Island/Coast (-8.9%), where residential (-9.5%), industrial (-16.6%), and institutional & government (-45.1%) permits dropped. In Northeast (-9.0%), the drop was primarily due to fewer industrial permits issued in the Peace River (-71.4%) region. Thompson/Okanagan (-1.8%) saw permits dip slightly.

  Among other regions, Mainland/Southwest (+18.0%) saw a substantial rise in permits, as activity in Greater Vancouver surged (+21.1%). Planned spending in North Coast continued to soar, increasing 601.7% over the value of permits issued in 2011. Cariboo (+13.7%), Nechako (+6.2%), and Kootenay (+5.6%) recorded moderate growth.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Housing starts in British Columbia rose 7.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January, following four consecutive months of decline.** Starts in urban areas surged (+7.7%) as construction activity for both single-detached

Report — No report this issue

Did you know...

When it comes to financial problems, 64% of British Columbians strongly agree, and 29% somewhat agree that they discuss them with their spouse or partner. *Source: Ipsos Reid Canada*

(+11.7%) and multi-family (+5.4%) dwellings increased.

Nationally, housing starts plummeted 18.5% in January, the fifth decrease in as many months, with five provinces recording declines. Ontario (-43.4%) and Quebec (-24.6%) saw the sharpest contractions, followed by lesser decreases in Saskatchewan (-9.7%) and Alberta (-2.7%). Activity on the east coast was up, with Nova Scotia (+131.0%), New Brunswick (+75.0%), and PEI (+69.0%) all recording robust growth in starts. Manitoba (+22.6%) recorded a double-digit increase following four months of decline.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Income

- **The number of British Columbians who contributed to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) totalled 739,140 in 2011, a 1.3% drop from 2010.** The decrease in B.C. was the largest out of the four provinces that recorded a reduction in the number of contributors. RRSP contributors in B.C. represent 22.7% of all tax filers (*includes those who are ineligible to contribute*) in the province. There were more male (53%) contributors than females (47%), though females made up a slightly larger share of tax filers (52%) in the province.

  Individuals aged 45 to 54 years accounted for 29% of contributors, while 25 to 34 year olds made up 18% of the total. The median employment income of contributors was $54,000, up from $51,970 in 2010. Total RRSP contributions were $4.4 billion, edging up 0.1% over the total in 2010. The median value of contributions made by males ($3,780) was well above the median contribution value of females ($2,500), resulting in an overall median contribution value of $3,000, slightly above the national median value of $2,830.

  Nationally, there was no change in the number of contributors, though the value of contributions rose 1.6% to $34.4 billion. Aside from B.C. (-1.3%), Ontario (-0.8%), Nova Scotia (-0.9%), and New Brunswick (-0.1%) also recorded fewer contributors. All other provinces saw the value of contributions increase.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **There were 1,161,990 tax filers in British Columbia who reported investment income in 2011, an increase of 1.1% over the total in 2010.** Those who reported investment income represented 35.6% of tax filers. Investment income totalled $9.5 billion in 2011, rising 7.7% over the value in 2010.

  Nationally, the number of tax filers reporting investment income edged up (+0.7%) slightly in 2011, with ten of the reporting regions recording increases. The value of investment income rose 8.2% in 2011 to $51.5 billion, primarily due to higher values in Alberta (+11.4%) and Ontario (+8.4%). The national median value of investment income was $570, with B.C. and Alberta tying for the highest median value ($700) in the country.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Philanthropy

- **The number of charitable donors in British Columbia fell slightly (-0.1%) in 2011, to 709,110.** Donors represented 21.7% of tax filers in B.C., with donations totalling $1.3 billion, a 2.3% increase over the previous year. The median donation value was $370, well above the national average of $260.

  Nationally, the number of Canadians who reported donations to a charitable organization on their tax return in 2011 fell 0.6%, with nine of the reporting regions recording fewer donors. The decline was offset slightly by a rise in the number of donors in Alberta (+1.4%). B.C. ranked third in the country in terms of the total value of donations, behind Ontario ($3.8 billion) and Alberta ($1.4 billion).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Dec 2012	3,149	-3.3
Merchandise Exports - Dec 2011	2,491	-8.5
Retail Sales - Nov 2012	5,093	0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Dec 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.4	1.1
Vancouver	0.5	1.3
Victoria	0.2	1.0
Canada	0.8	1.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jan 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-15.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,451.9	-0.8
Employed - BC	2,297.6	-0.7
Unemployed - BC	154.4	-2.3
		Dec 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.3	6.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.0	7.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Feb 13/2013	Feb 15/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.24	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Feb 13/2013	Feb 15/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0020	0.9982
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9982	1.0009
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jan 2013	one year ago
BC	881.18	3.4
Canada	874.98	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- No releases

To Release next week

- Consumer Price Index, January 2013

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